

Approval of (Amendments to) Contracts for Delta Science Program Research Fellows and Journal Publication

Requested Action: Direct the Executive Officer to execute amendments to existing agreements with the University of California, San Diego, California Sea Grant (UCSD) for the next class of Delta Science Fellows (\$1.0 M) and the University of California, Davis (UCD) for continuation of the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* online journal (\$250,000).

Background

As identified in the Delta Reform Act, “the mission of the Delta Science Program is to provide the best possible scientific information for water and environmental decision making in the Bay-Delta system.” The Science Program fulfills this mission in part by adding to the body of best available scientific information through funding research and peer-reviewed publication of research findings.

The Delta Science Program is seeking approval to enter into contracts that will continue two important program components. One contract will continue the Delta Science Fellows Program, an innovative and highly successful program that pairs the next generation of Delta scientists with community and academic mentors to conduct research targeting program priorities. The other contract will continue publication of the open-access online journal *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*. The journal is one of the primary avenues for publication of peer-reviewed research papers on the science and resource management of San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the upstream watersheds.

Contract with UCSD California Sea Grant

Since 2003, the Delta Science Program, in collaboration with California Sea Grant, has supported five classes of graduate and postdoctoral research fellows working on Delta-related projects. An amendment of \$1.0 M to the existing contract of \$7.2 M allows funding of 12-13 new 2011 Science Fellows. The term of the contract will be extended from October 31, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The Fellows will work with Delta agency scientists and senior academic research mentors to collaborate on research of direct relevance to the Delta Stewardship Council goals of maintaining a reliable water supply and improving ecosystem health. More information on the Delta Science Fellows program is available on the Council’s website at http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/research/research_fellow.html.

Contract with UCD

The Science Program supports the online, open access, peer-reviewed journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, and the companion online *Archive*. An amendment to extend the term from January 31, 2011 to June 30, 2012 and add \$250,000 to the existing agreement of \$475,133 will continue support to UC Davis for editing and publishing two to four issues per year. Since 2003, some of the most widely cited and authoritative research papers on the latest science of interest to Delta scientists, managers, and stakeholders have been published in the online journal. All issues and archives are available through the Journal website at http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews.

Fiscal Information

Funding for both amendments is available from current appropriations from Prop 50. Both projects are on the Delta Stewardship Council's list for bond funding.

Contact

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